United Nations A/66/L.43

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
4 April 2012

Original: English

Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 12
Global road safety crisis

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, China, Cuba, Egypt, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Oman, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Uruguay and Uzbekistan: draft resolution

Improving global road safety

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 57/309 of 22 May 2003, 58/9 of 5 November 2003, 58/289 of 14 April 2004, 60/5 of 26 October 2005, 62/244 of 31 March 2008 and 64/255 of 2 March 2010 on improving global road safety,

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on improving global road safety[1] and the recommendations contained therein,

Recognizing the global public health and development burden resulting from road traffic crashes,

Noting that this major public health problem has a broad range of social and economic consequences which, if unaddressed, may affect the sustainable development of countries and hinder progress towards the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing the role of the first Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety, held in Moscow on 19 and 20 November 2009, which culminated in a declaration[2] inviting the General Assembly to declare a decade of action for road safety,

Noting with satisfaction that targeted steps to reduce road traffic injuries undertaken by the United Nations since 2003 have yielded positive results,

[1] A/66/389.
[2] A/64/540, annex.

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Commending the World Health Organization for its role in implementing the mandate conferred upon it by the General Assembly to work in close cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions to coordinate road safety issues within the United Nations system, as well as to provide support for the implementation of the Decade of Action for Road Safety, and commending also the progress of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration as a consultative mechanism to coordinate the road safety activities implemented by its members and to provide Governments and civil society with good-practice guidelines to support action to tackle the major road safety risk factors and support their implementation,

Welcoming the joint efforts of the World Health Organization and the United Nations regional commissions to work in cooperation with other partners to develop the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020[3] under the mandate conferred by the General Assembly in resolution 64/255,

Recognizing the work of the United Nations regional commissions in increasing road safety activities and advocating increased political commitment to road safety, in elaborating global road safety-related legal instruments, including international conventions and agreements, technical standards, resolutions and recommendations, and working towards setting regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets,

Commending Member States that have acceded to the United Nations road safety international legal instruments, and that have adopted comprehensive legislation on major risk factors including the non-use of safety belts and child restraints, the non-use of helmets, driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, inappropriate and excessive speed, texting and inappropriate use of cell phones while driving,

Recognizing Member States and civil society in their continued commitment to road safety by observing the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims,

Commending the road safety advocacy campaigns and poster-signing events of the Economic Commission for Europe, including the global road safety communication campaign of the Commission and the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) and FIBA Europe, during the 2009 EuroBasket Championship in Poland, the 2010 World Basketball Championship in Turkey and the 2011 EuroBasket in Lithuania; the Economic Commission for Europe, the World Organization for the Scout Movement, the Hellenic Road Safety Institute "Panos Mylonas", the Scouting Ireland and Greece global road safety campaign at the World Scout Jamboree in Kristianstad, Sweden, in 2011; the unveiling of a memorial sculpture dedicated to the Decade of Action for Road Safety at the Park "Christos Polentas" in Chania, Crete, on 20 November 2011, the World Day of Remembrance of Victims of Road Accidents, initiated by the Association for Support and Solidarity to Families of Victims of Road Traffic Accidents of Crete; and the road safety poster "We drive by the rules", signed by ambassadors and heads of national delegations attending the 64th session of the Economic Commission for Europe,

Commending also the road safety initiatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, including the road safety poster "We drive by

[3] Available from www.who.int/roadsafety/decade_of_action/plan/en/index.html.

the rules", signed by the ambassadors and heads of national delegations attending the 67th session of the Commission; the launch of the Asia Pacific Road Safety Network, a web-based regional network of stakeholders designed to facilitate the timely and continu s exchange of road safety best practices and other useful information, on 20 November 2011, the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims; the organization of national workshops on road safety in Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, the Philippines, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in 2010 and 2011 in collaboration with host Ministries; and the convening of a regional expert group meeting on road safety in 2010 and 2011, which included the development of the regional road safety goals, targets and indicators, with an overall objective of a 50 per cent reduction in fatalities and serious injuries on the roads of Asia and the Pacific, in line with the Decade of Action for Road Safety,

Commending further the efforts of the Economic Commission for Africa in strengthening the road safety initiative in Africa, including the adoption, during the second African Road Safety Conference, held in Addis Ababa from 9 to 11 November 2011, of the African Plan of Action for the Decade of Action for Road Safety as a guiding document that addressed the continent's specificities and targeted a reduction in road traffic crashes by 50 per cent by 2020. The Plan was later endorsed by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport at its second session, held in Luanda from 21 to 25 November 2011,

Commending the efforts of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to include the issue of road safety under comprehensive, regionally coordinated transport policies, such as the efforts to establish the Meso-American Road Safety Plan and the inclusion in the final declaration of the XIII Summit of the Tuxtla Dialogue and Consensus Mechanism of road safety as a priority area, the Declaration of the X Ibero-American Meeting of Officials Responsible for Traffic and Road Safety, and other efforts to improve road safety in the Latin American and Caribbean region through studies and dissemination of best practices among national Governments, the private sector and multilateral regional institutions,

Commending also the efforts of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia leading to initiatives including the Commission's launch of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety in Beirut on 17 May 2011, the road safety poster "We drive by the rules", translated into Arabic and signed by the heads of delegations attending the launch of the Decade, and the twelfth session of the Commission's Committee on Transport, from 17 to 19 May 2011, which called upon member countries to work and coordinate with the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in their efforts to implement the Decade of Action for Road Safety, and to draw up a timetable for the implementation of the Moscow Declaration of 20 November 2009,

Acknowledging a number of other important international efforts on road safety, including the Ioannina Declaration adopted at the Economic Commission for Europe-Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization Conference on Improving Road Safety in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Region, held in Ioannina, Greece, on 18 and 19 November 2010 and the holding of international conferences such as the World Road Congress, the annual summit of the International Transport Forum, and the Michelin Challenge Bibendum on sustainable mobility, as well as holding of the second Global Meeting of Non-governmental Organizations

Advocating for Road Safety and Road Victims in Washington, D.C., on 14 and 15 March 2011, and taking note of the important contributions of the Commission for Global Road Safety,

Acknowledging also the launch of the Multilateral Development Banks' Road Safety Initiative on 19 April 2011, coordinated by the World Bank, and their collective effort to scale up road safety management capacity and infrastructure safety and improve safety performance measures, through the development of systematic and comprehensive road safety projects and the mobilization of resources for road safety in some low- and middle-income countries,

Expressing its concern at the continued increase in road traffic fatalities and injuries worldwide, in particular in low- and middle-income countries, bearing in mind that the fatality rate within the road system is considerably higher than the fatality rate within other transport systems, even in high-income countries,

Recognizing the efforts made by some low- and middle-income countries to implement best practices, to set ambitious targets and to monitor road traffic fatalities,

Taking into account the importance of strengthening capacity and continuing international cooperation to further support efforts to improve road safety, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, and providing, as appropriate, financial and technical support and knowledge to meet the goal of the Decade of Action for Road Safety,

Recognizing that a solution to the global road safety crisis can be achieved only through multisectoral collaboration and partnerships among all concerned in both the public and the private sectors, with the involvement of civil society,

Commending Member States that have participated in the World Health Organization *Global status report on road safety* 2010 survey, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 62/244,

1. *Welcomes* official national and local launches of the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 in over 100 countries around the world, regional launches for the Decade as well as other global events;

2. *Commends* Member States that have developed national plans that are in line with the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety, and encourages Member States that have not yet developed these plans to do so paying special attention to the needs of all road users, in particular pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users as well as issues related to sustainable mobility;

3. *Invites* Member States that have not yet done so to nominate, as appropriate, national focal points for the Decade of Action for Road Safety;

4. *Calls upon* Member States to implement road safety activities in each of the five pillars of the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety, namely, road safety management, safer roads and mobility, safer vehicles, safer road users and post-crash response;

5. *Encourages* Member States that have not yet done so to adopt and implement comprehensive national road safety legislation and regulations on the major risk factors, and improve implementation through social marketing campaigns and consistent and sustained enforcement activities;

6. *Also encourages* Member States to improve and strengthen road safety data collection and management systems through the standardization of definitions and reporting practices and investments into multisectoral road traffic crash surveillance and analysis;

7. *Further encourages* the implementation of new car assessment programmes in all regions of the world in order to foster availability of consumer information about the safety performance of motor vehicles;

8. *Invites* Member States to improve, where appropriate, their road management systems and introduce road safety audits both for new construction projects as well as road safety assessment programmes of the existing networks;

9. *Encourages* Member States that have not yet done so to consider becoming contracting parties to and to implement the United Nations road safety-related legal instruments, as well as to consider signing and ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[4] and further encourages States Parties to the United Nations Conventions on Road Traffic of 1949[5] and 1968[6] and the Convention on Road Signs and Signals of 1968,[7] and to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to continue to implement the provisions thereof;

10. *Also encourages* Member States to improve and strengthen pre-hospital, trauma and rehabilitation care, through the adoption of a national Emergency Medical System (EMS) telephone number, capacity-building and the provision of adequate and appropriate equipment;

11. *Invites* Governments to take a leading role in implementing the activities of the Decade, while fostering a multisectoral collaboration of efforts that includes academia, the private sector, professional associations, non-governmental organizations and civil society, including national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, victims' organizations and youth organizations, and the media;

12. *Reaffirms* the importance of addressing global road safety issues through international cooperation and strengthening collaboration between Member States and civil society to build capacity and raise awareness in the field of road safety and to continue raising awareness through the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims;

13. *Requests* the World Health Organization and the United Nations regional commissions, in cooperation with other partners in the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration and other stakeholders, to continue the activities aimed at supporting the implementation of the objectives of the Decade;

14. *Also requests* the World Health Organization and the United Nations regional commissions to organize activities during the second United Nations Global Road Safety Week, within their resources and with voluntary financial assistance from stakeholders, in collaboration with other members of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration, to raise global, regional, national and local awareness about road safety issues, with particular attention to vulnerable road users;

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[4] Resolution 61/106, annex I.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 125, No. 1671.

[6] Ibid., vol. 1042, No. 15705.

[7] Ibid., vol. 1091, No. 16743.

15. *Encourages* Member States, civil society and the private sector to participate in the second United Nations Global Road Safety Week by hosting national and local events;

16. *Invites* Member States, international organizations, development banks and funding agencies, foundations, professional associations and private sector companies to consider providing adequate and additional funding to activities relating to the Decade;

17. *Also invites* all interested relevant stakeholders to explore new and innovative funding modalities to support and collaborate in national efforts to implement the Plan of Action for Road Safety, particularly in low- and middle-income countries;

18. *Takes note* in this context the important role of the Global Road Safety Facility, the Road Safety Fund established by the World Health Organization and the FIA Foundation for the Automobile and Society, the Bloomberg Philanthropies and other private and public funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety;

19. *Invites* Member States and the international community to take into consideration road safety in the future planning of the relevant important international agendas, such as the efforts to achieve sustainable development;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Global road safety crisis" and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at that session on the progress made in improving global road safety.